

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are herein amended. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that the limitation in claim 2, line 4, “said print data that had been read out”, is unclear. More specifically, the Examiner states that it is unclear whether “print data” of the above limitation is referring to read out print data of claim 1, lines 3 and 4 or claim 1, lines 6 and 7. Claim 2 is amended to clarify that “said print data that had been read out” refers to “print data” of claim 1, lines 6 and 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is now requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki et al.* (US Patent 6,213,652 – assigned to Fuji Xerox) in view of *Schoenzeit et al.* (US Patent 5,619,624). Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Amended claim 1 describes a processor comprising a print data storing unit and a spool file storing unit that are attached together. The print data unit stores print data of an accepted print job. The spool file storing unit stores the print data read out from the print data storing unit in accordance with a print request command. The processing unit provided in the processor starts writing the print data of the print data storing unit to the spool file storing unit in

accordance with the print request command, before the processing unit finishes storing the print data in the print data storing unit.

Therefore, the processing unit is able to start storing the print data of the print job in the print data storing unit and also to supply the print data to the device control filter. Thereby, the time from the receipt of a print job to the start of the requested printing can be reduced, and a recovering process for re-printing can be performed at high speed, even when a problem occurs on the printer side.

On the other hand, *Suzuki* describes a print processing device with a job acceptance section 201, a job control section 203 and a job execution section 204, as shown in Fig. 27. The print processing device prevents job processing from being interrupted for a long time and causes a printer to be fully occupied for a long time. This is the case even when the reception of a succeeding document of a job is interrupted due to a fault of a network or the like, while a print request of plural documents is accepted as a single job to be printed.

Particularly, “Each job acceptance section 201 has its own spool and holds document data of a printed document included in a received job.” (*Suzuki*, column 41, lines 65-67). In addition:

When the job execution section 204, which is a printer, fetches document data of a print document from the spool of the job acceptance section 201 to print the document, the object processing section 208 also reads document attribute, such as the location of document data and paper size on which the data are printed, from the object file 209 and sends that document attribute to the job execution section 204.

(*Suzuki*, column 42, lines 53-59).

In the print processing device described in *Suzuki*, the acceptance section 201 has the spool for storing document data of the accepted print document. On the contrary, the processor of the present invention described in claim 1 includes the spool file storing unit in addition to the print data storing unit which stores print data of the accepted print job.

The processor of the present invention as recited in claim 1 is different from the print processing device of *Suzuki*. Additionally, the above technical feature of the present invention as recited in claim 1 is not described in *Schoenzeit*. The devices described in *Suzuki* and *Schoenzeit* have no advantageous effect as in the present invention. Therefore, *Suzuki* in view of *Schoenzeit* does not teach or suggest the subject matter as specifically recited in amended claim 1.

Regarding amended claim 4, the spool file storing unit is provided in the processor in addition to the print data storing unit. When the device control filter is not analyzing and processing print data, the processing unit reads out the print data of the print job in accordance with a specific condition which determines an output sequence of the registered print jobs stored in the print data storing unit, and writes the read out print data to the spool file storing unit. The processing unit in the present invention selects a most suitable print job from the accepted print jobs in accordance with the specific condition, and prints the print data of the selected print job.

For the same reasons as described in claim 1, the above technical features of the present invention as recited in claim 4 are not described in *Suzuki*. Additionally, the above technical feature of the present invention as recited in claim 4 is not described in *Schoenzeit*. The devices described in *Suzuki* and *Schoenzeit* have no advantageous effect as in the present invention.

Therefore, *Suzuki* in view of *Schoenzeit* does not teach or suggest the subject matter as specifically recited in amended claim 4.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 1 and 3-6 is hereby solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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